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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 872)

Name of Candidate	Shivam Ashutosh.		
Medium Hindi/Eng.	English	Registration Number	32354.
Center	M.N	Date	23/09/17.

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1	12.5	
2	12.5	
3	12.5	
4	12.5	
5	12.5	
6	12.5	
7	12.5	
8	12.5	
9	12.5	
10	12.5	
11	12.5	
12	12.5	
13	12.5	
14	12.5	
15	12.5	
16	12.5	
17	12.5	
18	12.5	
19	12.5	
20	12.5	

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

Signature of Examiner

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
2. There are TWENTY questions printed in ENGLISH.
3. All questions are compulsory.
4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other that the authorized one.
6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.

EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Alignment Competence
2. Context Competence
3. Content Competence
4. Language Competence
5. Introduction Competence
6. Structure - Presentation Competence
7. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best

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Answer all the questions in NOT MORE THAN 200 WORDS each. Content of the answers is more important than its length. All questions carry equal marks.

12.5X20=250

1. The "Outcome Budget" reflects the endeavour of the Government to convert "Outlays" into "Outcomes". Explain. Also, discuss why the potential of outcome budgeting remains untapped in the Indian context.

Budgeting is an important tool in planned economy to not only allocate resources for economic production but also evaluate the outcomes of such allocation. 'Outcome budget' pays equal attention to late as it –

* Holds the government accountable.
* Enhances faith in government.
* Enhances tax collection due to trust.
* Upholds democratic spirit & responsible governance.

While taxes form the economic & financial base of outlays in budget allocation, outcome reflects –

* efficiency of the government to turn plans into reality.
* tangible assets created like infrastructure and inclusion of citizens.
* capacity of the government & its departments.
* Transparency in use of funds and benefits arising out of it

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The outcome based budgeting also strengthens the faith in government, since government is seen as a wise spender. It turns when outcomes are not in alignment with outlays due to -

* using NPAs
* Ministerial & departmental corruption
* siphoning of funds.

- outcome analysis becomes even more important.

However it has not been fully utilised due to -

* lack of sufficient data.
* lack of zero line - zero-based budgeting
* Irrelevant distinction between plan-Non-plan expenditures
* No records at last mile juncture of plan execution.

In a socialist model where

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redistribution of resource is top-bottom. an outcome based budget which seeks feedback from bottom-up approach is need of the hour.

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2. What is agroforestry? Discuss its potential in making agriculture sustainable and viable. In this context, discuss the salient features of National Agroforestry Policy.

Agroforestry refers to a holistic, symbiotic and a sustainable combination of Agriculture with forests. The need for it has arised due to -

* Increased vagaries of nature due to climate change.
* Fall in farmers income
* Overdependence on agriculture
* Disguised unemployment in agriculture

Agroforestry provides an alternative to this through -

* Diet diversification - even if crops fail dependence on produce of forests
* Increase in Income - reach target of doubling farmers income by 2022.
* Climate Sustainability - attract rainfall
* food & nutritional security through fruits
* Minor forest produce.

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Agroforestry can be performed in parallel to agricultural crops-

Sustainability & Viability

* No separate land needed.
* Trees can also serve as shelter belts and prevent wind erosion
* No extra labour needed. since women & children can contribute
* Economically viable since trees do not need inputs.

To support this National Agroforestry policy is framed -

* Provide seeds & saplings to farmers of trees which are sustainable
* Education for sustainable forestry & viable use of forest produce.
* Create balance between agriculture & forestry by providing common village lands for purpose of forestry.

However to ensure a sustainable & viable agroforestry forward linkages like transport & storage need to be adequately

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provided since many products are perishable. Proper Technological extension services can enhance potential & practice of agroforestry which can solve agricultural distress by attracting rainfall & increasing incomes (low suicide rates)

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3. Comment on the problem of rising Non Performing Assets (NPAs) in India, with particular reference to public sector banks. Examine the effectiveness of the steps taken by the government in recent times to deal with this problem.

Non-Performing Assets refer to loans extended by the banks for which no principle or even interest has been received for 90 days. The NPA problem is result of both economic and institutional inefficiencies.

Economic

* Low global demand - hence low production in operative plants.
* Increasing cost of raw material offshoots proposed budgets.
*

Institutional

* Overleveraging & indiscriminate lending by banks during 2007-08 crisis
* Corruption in bank loans - extended w/o environmental clearance or SIA/EIA.
* Inefficient administration at top level due to appointments through spoils system than merit in PSBs.

The institutional problems are more peculiar to public sector banks.

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who share the larger burden of NPAs (around 85%). The public sector banks are seen as centers of low cost loans due to support of government.

Government Initiatives have come along with RBI measures. 4Rs.

① Recognition of substandard assets through Asset quality review has been envisaged. - Problem still not identified

② Recapitalization - through Indradhanush and other quantitative easing measures. - Not enough given the basel III norms of 9% of risk weighted amt

③ Restructuring through S4A - Strategy for Sustainable Assets by RBI.

* Corporate Debt restructuring
* Strategic Debt restructuring
* JLF
* Asset Reconstruction company.
* Public asset Rehabilitation Agency

Problem → It does not solve the problem, rather only puts a curtain on the inefficiencies when

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the problem continues to linger.

Solution:

(4) Reforms — Top level management recruitment through BBB (Bank Board Bureau) on merit.

* control lending by banks.
* MOUs and proper contracts
* EIAs / CIAs beforehand.
*

New laws like Insolvency & Bankruptcy Bill, Real Estate Regulation Act, Arbitration & reconciliation have potential to solve the NPA problem and ensure retracking of developmental process. Patience to Wajul Dependence

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4. To address the issue of unemployment, we need a multipronged approach and not just a focus on growth. Examine the statement in the context of various measures taken by the government in this regard.

The issue of unemployment lingers due to variety of reasons embedded in economic structure of India & not merely in growth. Eg.-

* Jobless growth in post LPG era.
* Disguised employment in Rural areas
* Lack of skill and education
* Marginalisation & Isolation of minorities
* Capital intensive production
* Low growth of MSMEs.
* Lack of institutional credit for self employment.
* Rigid labour laws.
* Increasing informalization of labour - contract labour.
* Patriarchal set up in household leads to unemployment of women.
* Lack of infrastructure.
* Low Ease of Doing Business.

Hence unemployment is rooted in institutional, infrastructural and even ideological factors.

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Any attempt to tackle this needs a holistic approach -

① Institutional - Legal framework -

* Reforms in labour laws which protects the rights of worker but also does not hinder flexibility of production process.

* Impetus to MSMEs - labour intensive & access to institutional credit through SETU, MUDRA, Zero-effect Zero defect.

* Creation of good jobs - like textile, apparel, leather for women, alongwith

* skill & education of minorities & women - Nayi Roshni, Nayi Udaan, Nai Manzil.

* Focus on innovation & startups - Start up - India & Stand-up India - Shift from job seeker to job provider.

* ARYA - Attracting Rural Youth to Agriculture through farm mechanization & extension services.

② Infrastructure -

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* Create more jobs through enhancing EODB.
* Roads - connectivity
* Skill through - Skill Service Centre, PM Kaushal Vikas Yojana, National Apprenticeship development Scheme etc.

Ideological

* women - opportunities

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5. Nuclear power has a great potential in India to supplement and in the longer term even substitute coal based power as base load. Discuss. Also, mention the steps taken by the Government of India in order to achieve nuclear energy self-sufficiency.

Nuclear power in India has a potential to not ~~on~~ only ensure energy security through affordable energy but also clean and sustainable parameters. Through the three stage development of nuclear power in India, India is looking forward to a huge potential in nuclear energy.

* Excess reserves of Thorium in monzaite land in beaches of Kerala.
* Civil nuclear deals with Japan & US enhances nuclear energy potential.
* Supply of Uranium from Kazakhstan & Australia.

* Russian support in setting up fast breeder reactor in Kundankulam which will enhance productivity.

Potential in substituting coal -

* Clean energy in place of coal and thermal energy.

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6. The agriculture sector needs government support but loan waivers are not the solution. Discuss the statement in the light of recent developments in India.

The protests of Tamil Nadu farmers in front of parliament in background of increasing suicides of farmers all over India reflects the dire need to support agriculture. Loan waiver is one of the demands raised -

Why loan waiver?

* Loans increases financial pressure pushing farmers in cycle of debts
* Failure of crops due to droughts reduces their loan repayment capacity -
* Even in years of normal production - repayment of loans leave them with nothing.

But why loan waiver is not a solution?

* Loan waiver leads to excessive burden on the exchequer.
* Perception of farmers as loan making customers may lead to banks not lending in future
* Real problem in climate change.

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inefficient & unsustainable farming methods & incompatible cropping pattern

* Farm waive have political conditions which leads to dominos effects where waive at one place leads to demand of similar waiver in other parts of country.

Then what needs to be done?

Identify the real problem.

* Water guzzling crops in Marathawad needs to be replaced with Jowar, pulses and other traditional crops which use less water & retain fertility of soil.
* Flood irrigation methods needs to be replaced with micro irrigation like sprinkler & drip irrigation.

* Banks need to stop lending for crops which are unsustainable for the region like Bt cotton in Maharashtra.

* Solve Inter-state water disputes for equitable distribution of water between states.

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* Agricultural & farm literacy through extension services.

* Change in MSP patterns to encourage locally compatible, sustainable crops.

Loan waiver can be an exception than rule to ensure changes in behavioural patterns of farming along with institutional changes rather than political pursuits & populist measures.

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7. What are the objectives of District Mineral Foundation? Discuss the challenges that need to be addressed for this institution to achieve its desired objectives.

District Mineral Foundation is an institutional mechanism in form of a fund formed under Mines & Minerals (Regulation & Development) Act, wherein, a certain amount of money has to be deposited in DMF, by the miner ensure/explorer. This fund has to be utilised to overcome the negative consequences arising in the neighbourhood as the result of mining - environmental, institutional etc.

DMF is a well intended mechanism which is based on, -

* pollutor pays principle
* Develop duty, but clean when we can afford. CBDR-RC.

It is meant for redressal and remedy of any environmental or health hazards occuring due to mining process. It can also be used for other developmental process like

* Infrastructure - Schools, Anganwadi centres
* Health.

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* Roads & Canals etc.

Since most of the mining areas lie in Eastern States, which overlap with Tribal areas of 5th & 6th Schedule, there are certain challenges arising out of its implementation—

* DMFs - have not been instituted in many mine affected areas.
* Authority over usage of DMFs lies with District collector but overlap of functions dilutes the authority.
* No consultation with local people and Gram Sabha regarding usage of DMFs. which lead to unnecessary projects.
* No clear delineation of areas where these funds can be utilised leads to misappropriation, siphoning or unutilisation of funds.
* Conflict with tribal authorities over development work.

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DMB need to be utilised in a citizen centric - participatory process taking care the peculiar needs of local population - particularly women & children.

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8. What factors explain India's poor merchandise export performance in recent times? Enumerate some recent measures taken by the government to help boost merchandise exports.

Merchandise exports from India comprise largely of textile, apparel and shoes items, which are exported to far off places. However this has experience a decline in recent times.

Factors:

① Increase in competition from Bangladesh, Vietnam, Indonesia and even Ethiopia in apparel & leather industry.

② High cost of labour despite demographic dividend due to low levels of skill.

③ Rigid labour laws which reduces EODB. - Increases informalisation

④ Low scale of operation of MSMEs due to limited access to credit and technological inefficiencies.

⑤ Competition from MNCs and artificial textile than cotton - due to low R&D and marketing disadvantages

⑥ Infrastructural issues like.-

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low capacity at ports, low connectivity with hinterland, congestion.

(7) Institutional factor like - corruption at custom level, slow paper processes, high turn around time of ship

(8) Low Information asymmetry b/w exporters & ports and lack of education regarding demands of global markets.

(9) Factors like setting up business, getting electricity, permission & clearances are still inhibitory factors.

This not only makes Indian product more costly, which is a disadvantage in itself, it also lowers the quality which is a prerogative for high exports.

Steps taken

(1) New major ports - Ennayam, Sagarmala.
(2) Zero-effect Zero defect for MSMEs to enhance quality.
(3) ACIDE scheme for export inf
(4) Foreign Trade policy 2015-2020

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* Merchandise Exports from India, Scheme
* Niryat Bandhu App
* Single window clearance.

(5) Enhance EODB through competitive federalism.

(6) Credit through MUDRA.

(7) Skilling of labour – PMKVY, NAPS, and. MOOCs etc.

(8) FTAs with countries – BTIA with EU need to be fastracked.

Exports are important not only to earn foreign exchange but also spread soft power – like china.

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9. Despite numerous health hazards associated with traditional cooking energy fuels, access to clean cooking in India still continues to be a luxury. Discuss. Also enumerate the steps taken by the government to make it accessible along with the challenges faced in the process.

Traditional cooking fuels like fuelwood and charcoal are reason for various health hazards like Pulmonary, chronic obstructive disorder, asthama & bronchitis - particularly among women who spend a lot of time. Reasons why traditional fuels are easy available -

* Easy access - local forests.
* free of cost - procured locally.
* traditional mindset - cultural factors

Why clean cooking remains a luxury?

* High cost of LPGs.
* Black marketing further pushes up price.
* irregular supply - cannot be reliable source.
* Recurring expenditure.
* Getting a connection is difficult due to rampant corruption.
* Men do not visit kitchen often hence do not realise the gravity of the situation.

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while harmful gases & chemicals effect women the most it has equal harmful effect on cognitive & physical development of other members of house

Steps taken by government

(1) Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana where LPG connection was provided to BPL women.- worth ₹ 1600.

(2) PAHAL - Pratyakh Hastantrit Laabh - DBT for buying cylinder gas connection in bank accounts of beneficiaries.

(3) Give it up scheme - an appeal to well off sections to give up their subsidy which can be used to extend services to poor beneficiaries.

(4) Needhue - multifuel cleanfuel gas CSIR.

(5) Ganga Ujja project - gas pipelines for states in ganga basin, providing LPG for household & CNG for vehicle

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10. Taxing agricultural income is an idea whose time has come. Critically discuss.

Agriculture is occupation of more than half the population of India while its contribution has remained low at around 16-17%. The agricultural income was kept taxfree at the time of independence because —

- land reforms had yet not been introduced.
- huge disparities in pattern of land ownership.
- Agricultural production was low & agriculture was largely as occupation of poor.

Why Agriculture should be taxed?

- Taxing agriculture would bring it under scrutiny of Big data - which can be utilised for introducing reforms in agriculture.
- Agriculture is no more only job of poor with entry of contract farming,

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co-operative farming, organic & horticulture farming.

* Taxing agricultural income would bring all produce in ~~control~~ right of government - which can prevent black marketing & hoarding easily, ensuring food security.

Why it is still not the time?

* Already agriculture is marked with low productivity - marked with rural to urban migration. Taxing would further disincentivize farming.

* 85% of Indian farms are small or Marginal farms who produce for subsistence and not for market.

* Irregular climate change pattern affect agricultural productivity. Including it in tax net can drastically affect GDP in years of droughts.

Solutions?

* While large farms, horticulture & farm mechanization can be taxed.

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* Create efficient & viable tax brackets. to ensure poor farmers are exempted.

Need of the hour is to attract more investments to agriculture. Taxing it might act as deterrence.

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11. Dismantling of administered price mechanism for fuels is being deemed as a significant piece of economic reform. Analyse. Also, discuss how the recently introduced dynamic fuel pricing can prove to be beneficial for both the OMCs as well as consumers.

Fuels are important for not only industrial development but also economic development through facilitating transport sector and even household consumption. Dismantling administered price mechanism is a significant economic reform because:-

* upholds the process of Liberalisation which gives larger say to forces of demand & supply (market forces).
* Attracts more OMCs which induces higher competition in fuel market.
* Reduced government influence. allows OMCs to freely set up prices with respect to cost incurred making them more profitable in long run.
* Reflects the true price of oil & fuel. which helps in time planning.

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While Oil Marketing companies benefit from the dynamic fuel pricing through enhanced autonomy, consumers benefit through -

* No sudden increase & decrease since dynamic pricing changes price by very small amount.

* No lining up outside petrol pumps every fortnight to escape price rise - hence civic order prevails.

* More OMCs provide larger range of options to consumers.

While dismantling control regime is good for the economy, state must intervene in cases of excessive inflation and times of oil crisis.

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12. Ensuring that buildings comply with green norms will require much more than current arrangements. Analyse. Also discuss the relevant features of the new building code issued by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency in this context.

Green norms for buildings are a set of guidelines to ensure sustainability, disaster resilience, power efficient and clean & green energy homes with respect to-

* Materials used for construction
* Structure & Map of house
* Rain water harvesting structure
* Minimize energy wastage
* Sustainable disposal of waste.

While current arrangements focus on the structural aspect of the buildings, there is need to shift focus to behavioural aspect.

Existing arrangements-

* GRIHA ratings
* Green ~~House~~ Homes by National Housing Banks.
* Zero energy homes * Mini Zmalin

Need for earthquakes.

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* incentive based mechanism to attract towards green buildings
* connect homes with smart grid.
* Separation of waste at origin
* conservation of energy by minimizing wastage.

This is needed to ensure - minimum indoor pollution through radon & other pollutant, while ensuring healthy residents.

The new building code issued by Bureau of Energy Efficiency entails installment of rooftop solar panels to ensure energy security.

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13. Given the worsening of air quality in National Capital Region, discuss the need for Graded Response Action Plan against air pollution and the challenges in its implementation.

The ~~[illegible]~~ NCT of Delhi region is according to WHO the second most polluted city in the world, and on top in terms of no. of people residing in air - above the hazardous limit of pollution. This is due to variety of reasons -

* Vehicular pollution * Stubble burning in nearby states * Winter conditions prevailing during December-November * Industrial belt around * Construction material.

The introduction of Graded Response Action Plan seeks to identify the level of pollution in collaboration with EPCA (Environmental Pollution Control Authority) and CPCB, and distinguish various levels of pollution wrt. PM2.5 and PM10 in air quality.

* It is an advanced version of NAAQS & AQI with focus on Particulate Matter.

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* It separates pollution level into 6 categ
  - Low pollution
  - Moderate
  - High.
  - Extremely Hazardous
  - Emergency.

The levels are provided with distinct colour - with different & graded response to each level of pollution. While High level would attract ban on entry of old vehicles, Emergency situation would lead to closing of schools and temporary halt to all construction activities in the area.

Hence the Response is symmetrical to the level of hazard. so as to ensure dissemination of relevant information to citizens alongwith proactive actions by the state government.

Challenges in implementation.

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* Collection of data.
* Unequal impact of pollution. While some areas close to industrial belt experience higher pollution than other - GRAP will impact all area.
* Hinder development activity which may hamper EODB of Delhi.
* Halt in construction activity may affect daily wage labours.
* Lack of public transport during odd-even days remains a challenge.

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14. A new disease emerging in any part of the world is a global threat. In the context of "zoonoses" and "emerging infectious diseases", analyse the risks for India. Also, identify the structures in place and measures required to combat these risks.

According to a social scientist Ulrich Beck we live in an era of Risk society - wherein all countries & citizens of all nations - face similar risks arising out of increased interaction. Diseases, climate change and terrorism are some few common risks.

With globalisation, the mobility of individuals have increased which serve as carrier for diseases like Zika, MERS, Zoonoses etc. Despite being limited to a certain geographical location, the virus of such diseases transcend boundries through men who travel.

India has successfully tackled such risks in past. India's exprience of Zika recently is a success story.

Structures & measures in place -

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* Medical checkups at arrival airports of people travelling from affected regions.
* Quarantine zones in international airports to limit any impact of such cases.
* Reporting of cases through organisation in which such affected victims work.

While India has maintained a quarantined strategy, its action is marked equally by compassion & humanistic response to one affected. They are provided with adequate treatment. India's investment in R&D towards developing medicines & vaccines for such diseases is a contribution we seek to make.

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15. There is a growing recognition that efforts should not be limited to post-disaster relief and reconstruction, rather development paradigm should integrate disaster risk reduction strategies. Discuss in the context of India.

Post-Disaster relief and reconstruction are part of reaction towards disaster, while today's era demands a more proactive response through -

- Disaster resilient constructions
- Disaster management action plans.
- Increased investment in capacity building

Disaster Risk Reduction strategy is an important component of -

Sendai Framework - emphasis is on reducing impact on lives, livelihoods, economy and other aspects of human life through -

- Identifying risks
- Understanding risks
- Identifying vulnerable sections
- Capacity building through training & information symmetry
- Disaster resilient infrastructure.

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National Disaster Management Plan

* In line with Sendai Framework it gives more emphasis on decentralisation of disaster risk reduction through
  - larger role to states
  - role of all stakeholders
  - role to private sector.
* It seeks modernization of NDRF forces
* Emphasis on drills, SOPs & Capacity building.
* constructing shelter homes in terms of environmental stability
* Ensure sufficient buffer stock to ensure food security during disaster.

Sustainable Development Goals

Climate change is major cause for disasters across the globe Hence any effort towards reducing

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disaster risk must integrate environment sustainability.

* conservation of water & water resources
* controlling global warming & sea level rise.
* Reduce poverty since poor are worst affected by disaster.
* Enhance capacity of oldage, women & children.

Hence Disaster Risk Reduction must come prior to Build Back better. because Prevention & Mitigation are equally important as Rebuilding & Response.

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16. The emphasis on TRIPS plus by developed countries is contrary to the position and interest of developing countries like India. Discuss.

Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual property Rights (TRIPS) are a set of mutually agreed terms over IPR issues in WTO. TRIPS plus is a set of extra-WTO rules which developed countries seek to establish in various regional and multilateral trade blocks. These includes -

* Patent Term extension.
* Restrict compulsory licensing
* Enhance patent fees.

→ How does it impact developing countries →

① India - while India is known as pharmacy of the world due to availability of cheap generic drugs which assures health & security in many poor nations of Africa and even South East Asia.

Any restriction of compulsory licensing would impact production

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of generic medicine which not only impact exports in India, but also health situation in many countries.

(2) Patent term extension- This increases the time period ~~in~~ ~~with~~ after which a technology can be freely used in market by paying a sum of money, restricts the access to new clean-environmentally sustainable technologies for many developing countries.

(3) Increase in royalty for patent rights makes products costlier and may go out of reach of developing nations with low purchasing power parity.

Such TRIPS plus not only impact developing nations but also undermine the authority of WTO as a global body in ensuring rule-based.

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trading. Any effort to create counter WTO norms would ~~prove~~ create imbalance in global trade.

Developing nations grappling with life threatening diseases like malaria and facing brunt of climate change need higher access to latest technology at cheaper cost to not only ensure survival in sustainable manner but raise living standards.

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17. Coherently dealing with security threats facing India requires deeper operational synergies among the army, navy and air force. Discuss in the light of the latest Joint Doctrine for Indian Armed forces. Also, delineate the reasons for resistance to the idea of a joint Chief of Defence Staff over the years.

Wars in recent times, are beyond traditional foot battles. While armies battle on ground, air force try to uproot & push back through air-offense & protect their troops through air defense. Navy is often used to sabotage influx of resources cutting the country off imports & export of food grains & other important goods.

Hence security arrangements must ensure co-operation & harmonic operational synergy of all three branches of army.

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Why joint Doctrine for Armed forces.

(1) Improve response time in cases of sudden attacks.

(2) Institutionalised - standard operating procedure & command hierarchy - improved efficiency of response.

(3) Support services - while one branch fights at the front other can provide logistical support.

Problems with Joint Chief of Defence Staff

(1) Issues of appointment - preference to any particular branch of armed forces may lead to loss of morale of other fran

(2) Charges of bias towards military

(3) Overlap of command structure.

(4) Issues of seniority.

(5) Common Head of Defence Staff, if appointed must be done after

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sufficient deliberation with all stakeholds. Any political intervention must be done away with & merit must be the only criteria.

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18. Over the years, laws dealing with money laundering have proved to be less than effective. Briefly discuss the statement in the context of government's proposal to make money laundering a separate criminal offence. Also enumerate the recommendations made by FATF to combat money laundering.

Money Laundering refers to generation of money (income) through illegal activities and reintroduction of such money into formal economy. converting / challenlishing it through various means like real estate, NGOs etc. Law to deal with Money Laundering was Prevention of Money Laundering act 2002, which made Enforcement directorate the implementing body.

What shows PMLA '02 remain inefficient

① Huge amounts of money generated through terror funding & hawala.

② Parallel cash economy - which is often part of black economy or shadow economy.

③ Ever increasing investment in real estate - most of which is Benami property.

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Hence PMLA '02 has failed to effectively deal with Money Laundering because-

① No mechanism to check generation of black money or income through illegal activities.

② Emphasis is on post laundering stage - rather than prevention of money laundering.

③ Administrative capacity & workforce in ED is limited.

④ Limited powers to punish to Money Launderers.

⑤ No inter country & inter ~~minister~~ agency cooperation..

How will making Money Laundering separate criminal offence help

① Provide for an institutional mechanism which will not only-
* Avoid Money Laundering.
* Prevent generation of illegal income.

② Higher co-ordination b/w agencies like CBI, ED, SEBI etc.

③ Expertise in adjudication of ML cases by professional Judges.

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(4) Strict penalties would create a deterrent effect.

Recommendation of FATF.

(1) Higher level of coordination wrt to Base erosion & Profit shifting.

(2) control over real estate business.

India has responded well with. RERA and other acts. Money laundering needs to be curbed because it acts as fuel to terrorist & other socially harmful activities.

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19. State the reasons which render Critical Information Infrastructures (CII) a preferred target of attack from state and non-state actors. Also, mention the steps taken by the government in order to secure its critical information infrastructure.

Critical Information Infrastructure refers to technical and digitally connected backend of all government data and services, which is important for governance and service delivery. GSTN - Big data, Aadhar - UIDAI data etc, RBI, etc are example of such critical Information Infrastructure.

Why preferred target

State actors

* Breach in enemy nations CII can provide access to relevant information like military strength, stage of preparation
* Espionage is of high merit to enemy nation.
* Attack with democratic process - impact elections (Russia-USA)

Non-state actors

* ~~Extort~~ For ransome - Wannacry. ransomeware.
* Merely for technological exhibition
* transfer of funds.
* Stealing of data. - Big data

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Steps taken

* National Cybersecurity policy 2013 identified the CII, and proposed ~~in~~ mechanism to ensure
* National cybersecurity coordinator
* CERT and sectoral CERTs - cert-fin
* Bleeding edge technology
* Air gapping - disconnect CII from any outside network
* Use of indigenously manufactured phones by important officials engaged in CII.
* ICA - Indian Cybersecurity

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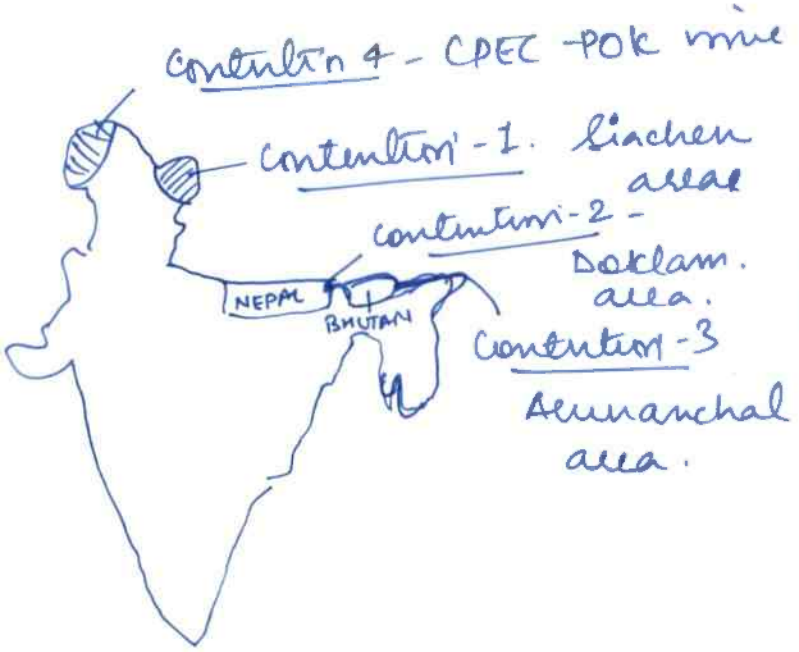
Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

20. In the context of recent developments briefly explain the issues involved in the Doklam area. What are the challenges that India faces in the management of border with China? In this context, also identify key steps taken by India over the years.



India shares a long boundary with China which are marked with historical issues - ever since the war of 1962. The present Doklam issue present one such issue -

* Doklam region in chumbi Valley, at the trijunction of India, China Bhutan border, has experienced an aggression by China in the region.
* while Doklam plateau is part of Bhutan, India - Bhutan in its Treaty of Friendship assures non-allowance of any

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external threat to use their land & Military intervention can be exerted to eradicate any such threat.

* While China considers Doklam as part of its mainland - under its aggressive agenda - it has geo-political & military strategic importance for India due to its location - north to chicken neck

China can take control of chicken's neck if it gains access to Doklam plateau - which can isolate entire North East India from Indian mainland.

Other challenges

① Siachen issue - issue of Line of Actual control which is defined in different terms leads to hostilities in recent months.

② Arunachal issue - Delineation of ~~Mc Donald~~ McMahon line is unacceptable

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role to china which tries to expand its territories so-to Arunachal.

③ CPEC - POK - has sovereignty issues posed infront of India in co-operation with pakistan.

Efforts

① Militarization of Ladakh area
② Use of UAVs & highly developed technology for surveillance.
③ Air base at Ziro in Arunachal.
④ Border talks & Meets.
⑤ Use diplomacy to descalate issues
⑥ India has a twin challenge of ensuring of sovereignity of its territory alongwith maintaing peaceful relations with neighbours which can be achieved through talks & diplomacy at not war & aggression.

279

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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1243)

Name of Candidate	Shivam Ashutosh		
Medium Eng./Hindi	ORN	Registration Number	32354.
Center		Date	

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1	10	
2	10	
3	10	
4	10	
5	10	
6	10	
7	10	
8	10	
9	10	
10	10	
11	15	
12	15	
13	15	
14	15	
15	15	
16	15	
17	15	
18	15	
19	15	
20	15	

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में सूचनाएं भरना आवश्यक है (नाम, प्रश्न–पत्र कोड, विद्यार्थी क्रमांक आदि)।
2. There are **TWENTY** questions printed in **ENGLISH & HINDI**
   इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं अंग्रेजी और हिन्दी में छपे हैं।
3. **All questions are compulsory.**
   सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।
4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
   प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।
5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other that the authorized one.
   प्रश्नों के उत्तर उसी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए जिसका उल्लेख आपके प्रवेश पत्र में किया गया है और उस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न–सह–उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के मुख्य पृष्ठ पर अंकित निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिए गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेंगे।
6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
   प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।
7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा हुआ पृष्ठ या उसके अंश को स्पष्ट रूप से काटा जाना चाहिए।

16-B, 2nd Floor, Above National Trust Building, Bada Bazar Marg, Old Rajinder Nagar, Delhi-110060

Plot No. 857, 1st Floor, Banda Bahadur Marg (Opp Punjab & Sindh Bank), Dr. Mukherjee Nagar Delhi- 110009

EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Contextual Competence
2. Content Competence
3. Language Competence
4. Introduction Competence
5. Structure - Presentation Competence
6. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best

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1. Reservation of seats in legislature is needed to ensure meaningful political participation of women and to make the democratic process truly inclusive. Discuss the statement in the light of 108th Constitution Amendment Bill.

(150 words) 10

महिलाओं की सार्थक राजनीतिक सहभागिता सुनिश्चित करने एवं लोकतांत्रिक प्रक्रिया को सही अर्थों में समावेशी बनाने हेतु विधायिका में सीटों के आरक्षण की आवश्यकता है। 108वें संविधान संशोधन विधेयक के आलोक में इस कथन की विवेचना कीजिए।

current Lok Sabha constitutes of 15% of women MPs, which despite being historically highest, still remains much lower than the world average or as mandated by constitution ie. equality opportunity.

Why needed?

- equal opportunity - contribute to policy inputs
- raise voices in wake of new women issues like violence against women
- Gender sensitive laws
- representation to 50% of population
- inclusivity in policy making
- encourage more & more women to take up politics
- consonent with 73rd - 74th Amendment of constitution.

Meaningful contribution

- not just proxy representation
- issues of panchayatpati

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↳ not only in policy making but feedback & implementation in
↳ women sensitive policies.

108th Constitutional Amendment Act.
1/3rd Reservation for women in Parliament & state legislative assemblies
↳ vision of Jan Jan
↳ vision of Sabka Sath Sabka Vikas
↳ New India = Inclusive India.

Idea is coherent with equal opportunity as embedded in preamble

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2. Discuss the issue of reservation in promotions for SCs and STs in public employment in the light of various judicial pronouncements and constitutional amendments. . **(150 words) 10**

विभिन्न न्यायिक निर्णयों और संवैधानिक संशोधनों के आलोक में सार्वजनिक नियोजन में SCs और STs के लिए पदोन्नति में आरक्षण के मुद्दे पर चर्चा कीजिए।

Supreme Court in M. Nagraj Case Judgement summised/observed that there must be a triple test of reservation extension in case of promotion –

① Data regarding representation of SC/ST in public employment.

② Socio-~~economic~~ educational backward nen. of the community.

③ .

Issues

→ Double advantage - at the time of recruitment and at time of promotion

→ Consideration of merit vs. Identity

→ Impact on effectivity and work culture

→ Motivation & demotivation for unreserved.

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However in a study by Ashwini Deshpande the performance of SC/ST in Railways improved as they reached in upper ranks in organization due to greater motivation.

Why reservation in promotion?

- legacies of injustice
- ~~pure~~ protective discrimination
- caste based discrimination within organization.

Hence SC came up with concept of consequential seniority to solve this issue

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3. Highlight the reasons behind underperformance of the Autonomous District Councils (ADCs). How can their performance be improved?

(150 words) 10

स्वायत्त जिला परिषदों (ADCs) के निम्नस्तरीय कार्य-निष्पादन के पीछे उत्तरदायी कारणों पर प्रकाश डालिए। उनके कार्य-निष्पादन को कैसे बेहतर किया जा सकता है?

Autonomous District councils are a characteristic feature of 6th Schedule protection under constitution in four states of Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram & Tripura.

Intention → Autonomy to administer according to Tribal laws
→ control of over resources, taxes, forest produce
→ administration of Justice.
→ Regulate economic activities like money lending.

Reasons for underperformance
→ no clear delineating of power
→ ambiguity in control over territory
→ Overlap of jurisdiction b/w PESA, FRA, and other Tribal laws
→ Multiple & Conflicting Tribal groups
→ underrepresentation or no representation of some tribes.

representation of women remains low.

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- Lack of funds.
- no clarity on application of state & central laws
- excessive discretion of Governor

How can they improve?

- clear demarcation of power & jurisdiction
- increase strength of ADCs
- reservation of seats for women
- less intervention & discretion of governor
- devolution of funds & functions
- Audit mechanism
  - Social audit
  - Financial audit

Way forward.

Make ADCs institutions of self governance with a clear - unambiguous mandate with sufficient resources & equal representation.

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4. Highlighting the rationale behind continuance of the Official Secrets Act, critically discuss whether the Right to Information should be given precedence over it. **(150 words) 10**

शासकीय गुप्त बात अधिनियम की निरंतरता के पीछे निहित औचित्य पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, समालोचनात्मक चर्चा कीजिए कि क्या सूचना के अधिकार को इस पर वरीयता दी जानी चाहिए।

The Official Secrets Act is an instrument of colonial legacy that protects the sensitive information - which can jeopardise the integrity & security of country if available in public domain.

Rationale behind continuance?

- protect sensitive information like defense, communication
- to protect & preserve friendly relations with other foreign states
- official communication between organs of government.
- Can be misused against the security by miscreants.

Issues with continuance

- no clear definition of 'sensitive' information
- hinders availability of information under RTI
- Used as weapon to harass.

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investigative journalists & activists
→ blanket cover - against Transparent governance

Why RTI should be given precedence?

↳ Transparency is important for good governance
→ Information required to hold the government accountable
→ RTI is a Right to know in a fundamental right under creative interpretation of article 21.

Security of state and Transparency in government must go hand in hand. While the misuse of information must be checked, any blanket ban enhances the mistrust & leads to trust deficit.

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5. Write a short note on India Enterprise Architecture (IndEA) framework. Highlighting its main principles, examine how its full fledged implementation can improve the existing governance landscape of India.

(150 words) 10

इंडिया एंटरप्राइज आर्किटेक्चर (IndEA) फ्रेमवर्क पर एक संक्षिप्त लेख लिखिए। इसके प्रमुख सिद्धांतों पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, परीक्षण कीजिए कि किस प्रकार इसका पूर्ण कार्यान्वयन भारत के वर्तमान शासन परिदृश्य को उन्नत बना सकता है।

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6. What is the rationale behind having a mandatory 'cooling-off' period for retired civil servants? In light of numerous instances of violation of this provision, do you think there is a need to have a relook at Civil Services Conduct Rules? **(150 words) 10**

सेवानिवृत्त सिविल सेवकों के लिए अनिवार्य 'उपशमन' अवधि होने के पीछे क्या औचित्य है? इस प्रावधान के उल्लंघन के कई दृष्टांतों के आलोक में, क्या आप मानते हैं कि सिविल सेवा आचरण नियमावली पर पुनर्विचार किए जाने की आवश्यकता है?

Cooling off period refer to the period of political or any public inactivity of a retired or resigned civil servant.

to ensure –

- no quid pro quo
- no conflict of interest
- no instant gratification
- no ensure politically neutrality of bureaucracy.
- no check politicization of civil services.
- to create difference for resigning from services to enter populist politics.

Other reasons to ensure cooling off period.

- resignation from public life
- not use the social capital built during service as political capital.

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Why need to relook civil Services Conduct Rul

While the rules ensure political objectivity when in service, it does not extend to retired or resigned servants.

- changing political scenario of populism
- avoid misuse of office powers to gain popularity & subsequently resign
- avoid growth of commitment to ideology while in services.

The 2nd ARC as well as the NITI Aayog in its strategy for India @ 75 suggest 1-2 years of cooling of period to break this unholy of nexus. & transition

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7. Highlighting the key features of POSHAN Abhiyan, explain how it is an improvement over previous interventions in achieving the goal of malnutrition free India. **(150 words) 10**

पोषण (POSHAN) अभियान की प्रमुख विशेषताओं पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, समझाइए कि यह कुपोषण मुक्त भारत के लक्ष्य को प्राप्त करने में पिछले हस्तक्षेपों की तुलना में कैसे समुन्नत है।

Poshan Abhiyan aims at reducing
- child - infant mortality
- child stunting.
- child wasting
- greater ante natal care & nutrition post child birth.

What is new?
- quantifiable targets
- Time bound targets.
- greater convergence of schemes
- structural & functional coordination
- Involvement of all stakeholders.
- life cycle approach.

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8. Highlighting the need of generic medicines in India, give an account of the reasons behind their lower availability and adoption. Also, mention some steps taken by the government in this regard. **(150 words) 10**

भारत में जेनरिक दवाओं की आवश्यकता पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, उनकी कम उपलब्धता और स्वीकरण हेतु उत्तरदायी कारणों का विवरण प्रस्तुत कीजिए। साथ ही, इस संबंध में सरकार द्वारा उठाए गए कुछ कदमों का भी उल्लेख कीजिए।

Generic medicines are the locally manufactured medicines with similar Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients, as the branded drug but available at much cheaper price.

Need of Generic medicine?

- check the disease burden
- reduce out of pocket expenditure
- enhance exports to African as well as South East Asian countries
- Affordability of healthcare
- reduce drug fatigue
- break monopoly of branded drugs
- availability in
  - public hospitals.
  - rural areas.

Reasons for lower availability?

- low manufacturing growth
- IPR issues Nexavar, & Sovaldi.
- distribution network weak.
- lack of margin hence not

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↳ sold by retailers
↳ lack of

Reasons for low adoption

↳ Perception issue, branded drugs seen as more effective
↳ generic drugs lack the required marketing
↳ low availability in market
↳ low rates of prescription by doctors due to collusion with MNCs
↳ seen as cheap drugs - hence fears of side effects

Government Initiatives

① Pradhan Mantri Jan Anushadhi Scheme
- Jan Anushadhi Stores
- Space for shop & stocks provided by government
- free availability in public Hospitals
- Encourage Doctors to prescribe Generic medicines

② Greater marketing & production

③ FTAs for export markets.

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9. Give an account of the challenges that the multilateral rule-based trading system is facing. With special focus on WTO, discuss how these challenges can be addressed effectively. **(150 words) 10**

बहुपक्षीय नियम-आधारित व्यापार प्रणाली द्वारा सामना की जा रही चुनौतियों का विवरण प्रस्तुत कीजिए। WTO पर विशेष बल देते हुए, चर्चा कीजिए कि किस प्रकार इन चुनौतियों का सफलतापूर्वक समाधान किया जा सकता है।

A ~~&~~ multilateral rule-based trading is important for equal, and equitable development across the globe.

Challenges
- Issues of growing protectionism and isolationism by USA, China
- Trade wars between countries on grounds of Data protection & data colonization
- ~~Hegem~~ Dominance of Developing countries in negotiations
- no deal on Doha Development Rnd. despite India signing TFA
- North-South divide based on issues
- attempt to include new issues like e-commerce in WTO agenda by Developed.
- formation of regional blocks like RCEP, CTIIP, endanger WTO
- no dispute settlement appeal structure leading to low compliance - no.

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Need for Reforms in WTO:

↳ Greater voice to developing nations
↳ re-valuate Demminimis level for calculation of subsidy under Amber box.
↳ consideration to development need of developing nations.
↳ Strictly compliance mechanism.

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10. Highlight the major impediments affecting India-US trade relations. What possible consequences can the recent withdrawal of Generalized System of Preference (GSP) have on India-US trade relations? **(150 words) 10**

भारत-अमेरिका व्यापार संबंधों को प्रभावित करने वाले प्रमुख अवरोधों पर प्रकाश डालिए। हाल ही में, अधिमानता की सामान्यीकृत प्रणाली (जनरलाईज्ड सिस्टम ऑफ़ प्रेफेरेंस: GSP) की समाप्ति से भारत-अमेरिका व्यापार संबंधों पर क्या संभावित प्रभाव पड़ सकता है?

India-US trade relations are based upon equal & reciprocal access to market - both goods & services.

Major impediments

① Policy uncertainity in India - for eg. the new e-commerce policy is damper for investment (FDI) from US to India.

② Subsidies - USA has raised concerns regarding market distorting subsidies in agriculture as well as solar panel procurement which led to dispute in WTO.

③ IPR issues - issues of compulsory licensing, evergreening of patents, in generic medicine is a bone of contention.

④ Data localization - many US based firms are based upon data dependent technologies like facebook - data localization may enhance cost which may dampen trade relation.

⑤ Isolationism & Protectivism by Trump

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government can impact HIB Visa restrictions and hinder free movement between countries.

(6) US has also raised concerns with respect to human rights protection in wake of mob lynchings - since political & social stability are important aspect of trade.

Possible consequence of GSP withdrawal

(1) Reduction in exports from India to U.S.
(2) Increase in tariff - exports become uncompetitive
(3) Smaller countries like Bangladesh & Vietnam can take advantage.
(4) Reduced foreign exchange reserves
(5) Reduced trade negotiations.

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11. In a democratic setup, it is imperative that independence be balanced with accountability. Discuss in the context of judiciary in India. **(250 words) 15**

किसी भी लोकतांत्रिक व्यवस्था में, यह अत्यावश्यक है कि स्वतंत्रता को जवाबदेही के साथ संतुलित किया जाए। भारत में न्यायपालिका के संदर्भ में चर्चा कीजिए।

The Indian institutional set up is based on separation of power, along with checks & balances where independence of an organ is balanced with accountability.

Judicial independence

① Independence in recruitment (collegium) and removal.
② Expenditure charged on Consolidated fund.
③ Transfer of Judges, conditions of work are immunised from interference.
④ Article 13, 136, 142 gives powers to check any executive or legislative action on the grounds of violation of Constitution without any fear or favour.

• Why Independence Imperative?

① Save from excesses of state, check encroachment upon fundamental rights
② To provide a liberal interpretation to constitution to uphold both Fundamental rights & DPSP as enshrined in constitution.
③ Issues of committed Judiciary in 1970, have lead to erosion in public trust. Hence

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independence is sine qua non to ensure public trust & confidence.

However there are issues of accountability

① Recent case of alleged sexual harassment one CJI, and the dissatisfactory working of internal mechanisms.

② Excessive opacity in appointment, promotion & transfer of Judges

③ Refusal to come under the ambit of RTI has raised eyebrows.

④ The cases of Judicial overreach, judicial legislation by supreme court in Sabarimala case, ban on liquor on highways etc.

⑤ Excessive use of Article 142 to creatively interpret the constitution to widen the ambit of Judiciary - venturing in areas like religion and

⑥ The non-accountability of Judges over their judgements creates a judge-centric federal system rather than rule of law.

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Why need to balance

- Judicial Independence does not mean Judicial supremacy.
- check Judiciary assuming roles of super legislature
- Concept of checks & balances.
- separation of power must not be rigid.

The issue of - 'who judges the judge' is an emerging debate with increasing focus on transformative constitution and liberal interpretation under article 13, 21 etc.

What is needed?

- transparent internal mechanism
- Memorandum for procedure for appointment
- All Indian Judicial Services.

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12. Despite various strengths, there are certain weaknesses in the existing structure of departments of the government which render the system slow and cumbersome. Analyze. **(250 words) 15**

विभिन्न गुणों के बावजूद, सरकार के विभागों की वर्तमान संरचना में कुछ दुर्बलताएं विद्यमान हैं जो व्यवस्था को धीमा और बोझिल बना देती हैं। विश्लेषण कीजिए।

The ~~p~~ departmentalization of government is the adopted feature of Indian Civil Act 1860- Portfolio System based upon concept of -

- division of labour
- greater specialization of work.
- Seperation of different task and clubbing of similar task.
- reduce wastage - increase efficiency - enhance effectivity.
- greater inter departmental coordination and cooperation.

Departmentalization in India took place in 1972 and continued till 1976.

Strength of Departments of governments

- Higher skilled recruitment
- Easy administration
- reduces delay in decision making within department
- leadership - easy to orient.
- easy to establish accountability
- easy to demarcate funds, functions & functionaries

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Weaknesses

- compartmentalization of processes.
- delay in decision making in absence of coordination
- competition for funds.
- Bureaucratisation of government procedures.
- Generalist nature of Department heads due to recruitment patterns inefficiencies.
- Sub-departmentalisation. for eg. Telecom Department
  - Licensing & assessment
  - Accounts & finance
  - Technology
  - Foreign relations
  - LAF

Results

- problems in establishing accountability
- red tapism.
- Bureaucratic inertia.

Solutions

- Merging of departments with similar work for eg- Railway Account, Civil Account, Defence Account & to one Account & finance department

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- Removal of wasteful or obsolete department
- avoid duplication of efforts
- greater vertical & horizontal coordination within & inter departments.

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13. In the light of criticism surrounding the composition and functioning of Rajya Sabha, do you think it exists merely as a secondary house of the Parliament? **(250 words) 15**

राज्यसभा की संरचना और कार्यप्रणाली से संबद्ध आलोचना के प्रकाश में, क्या आप मानते हैं कि इसका अस्तित्व केवल संसद के एक द्वितीयक सदन के रूप में है?

Rajya Sabha - which came into being as the upper house in the bicameralism introduced in Government of India Act 1919, is often regarded as 'white elephant' due to its powerlessness in checking legislation's.

Composition issues

- the members are not directly elected
- becomes refuge for defeated party leaders or rich businessmen
- no real representation of states since condition for domicile no more applicable.
- nominate members - discretion of president which is against separation of power between executive & legislature.
- disparity in allocation of seats to states varying from 1 in Sikkim to 40 in U.P
- no ~~seg~~ ~~ea~~ chairman not member of house

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functional issues

- limited powers with respect to money bill - bills often go unscrutinised - Aadhar bill
- limited power with respect to removal of emergency.
- ~~[illegible]~~ no say in election of President
- often defeated in joint sitting due to low strength
- Speaker chairs joint sitting

However there are reasons why Rajya Sabha was kept less powerful -

- Since no direct representation through elections - no real financial powers
- kept as the revising chamber for greater scrutiny of the law making process.

But to assume its is secondary or giant elephant would be - exaggeration.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

Why not secondary house?

- represent interest of states
- check hasty decisions
- check importance of emergency
- ~~no~~ check arbitrary amendment of constitution
- space to intellectual & experienced individuals through nominated members.
- role in impeachment of President & removal of Judges.
- article 312(A18) and 249(law on state subject)

Rajya Sabha represents the federal spirit of the constitution which is based upon equal cooperation of states.

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27/14/36

14. Despite legislative changes with respect to funding of political parties in recent years, many challenges still exist with regards to transparency in electoral funding. Discuss. Can state funding of elections help in addressing these challenges? **(250 words) 15**

हाल के वर्षों में राजनीतिक दलों के वित्त-पोषण के संबंध में विधायी परिवर्तनों के बावजूद, चुनावी वित्त-पोषण में पारदर्शिता संबंधी कई चुनौतियां अभी भी बनी हुई हैं। चर्चा कीजिए। क्या राज्य द्वारा चुनावों का वित्त-पोषण इन चुनौतियों को दूर करने में सहायता कर सकता है?

Recently, the concepts of electoral bonds was introduced through amendment in Representation of People Act, RBI Act, Income Tax Act, to bring greater transparency ~~and~~ in electoral funding.

Challenges

- anonymity in funders name leading to quid pro quo
- no limit on private contribution cap of 7.5% removed
- no mention of party in Business account books.
- Tax benefits - leading to formation of ghost political parties leading to black money & laundering
- political funding outside the ambit of RTI

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State funding of elections.

Pros → level playing field for all parties
↳ role of money power / muscle power in ticket consideration reduced
↳ easy to check the expenditure limit on campaigns.
↳ Audit Mechanism & RTI applicable
↳ Wasteful expenses - cash for vote - conspicuous expenditure controlled.

Problems
↳ Only registered, recognized parties have access to state funding based on past performance
↳ discrimination towards new parties
↳ Fiscal burden upon government
↳ Increase in Taxes
↳ Against freedom to support the party or ideology one subscribes to.
↳

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Hence state funding of elections is no panacea to electoral funding problem.

Solutions

↳ RTI ambit expanded to cover political parties.

↳ companies declare funding - might lead to harassment

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15. Successful and long-lasting urban transformation critically depends on reforming the way our cities are governed. In this context, highlight the challenges plaguing urban governance in India and suggest some strategies to overcome those challenges. **(250 words) 15**

सफल और चिरस्थायी शहरी रूपांतरण मुख्यतया, हमारे शहरों को शासित करने के तरीके में सुधार पर निर्भर करता है। इस संदर्भ में, भारत में शहरी शासन को दुष्प्रभावित करने वाली चुनौतियों पर प्रकाश डालिए और इन चुनौतियों को दूर करने के लिए कुछ रणनीतियों का सुझाव दीजिए।

With increasing trend to Urban Migration - Urban areas are expected to house 65% of population by 2050 which will put pressure on not only physical infrastructure but also governance. imperative.

Challenges Plaguing Urban governance

① Structural challenges
- overlapping jurisdiction of various departments
- Municipalities, district administration, cantonment board, fire department, water etc
- Old infrastructure like sewage, water, roads, housing
- Urban planning - Spatial is under pressure due to increasing demand of housing
- lacking satellite towns around megacities.

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(2) Functional challenges

- Lack of coordination among departments
- Multiplicity of laws, rules, regulations
- Corruption in urban public services delivery
- Lack of power devolved under 74th amendment
- low financial capacity → low tax revenues
- lack of motivational factor for governance

(*) → apathy towards poor & underprivileged

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Strategies to overcome—

① Financial resources → taxation powers like property taxes, user charges, parking fees
- leverage funds through municipal bonds.
- Green bonds.

② Retrofitting, rejuvenation & Urban transformation through Technological Solutions— AMRUT + Smart Cities.

③ Clear demarcation of functions & powers, of Mayor, Chairman, Municipal commissioner.

④ Greater coordination between departments like fire, water, electricity, road etc.

⑤ Enhance Capacity of local Urban self. government through human resource development and performance linked career progression.

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16. Explain the role that SHGs play in poverty alleviation in India. Highlighting the shortcomings of the SHG-Bank Linkage programme, give some suggestions to improve its performance. **(250 words) 15**

भारत में निर्धनता उन्मूलन में SHGs द्वारा निभाई जा रही भूमिका को स्पष्ट कीजिए। SHG-बैंक लिंकेज कार्यक्रम की कमियों पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, इसके निष्पादन में सुधार लाने हेतु कुछ सुझाव दीजिए।

SHG (Self Help Groups) are voluntary association of individuals for a common objective, to leverage collective pooling of resources for entrepreneurial enterprise or to seek credit for such endeavour. It is based on equal contribution - equal benefit and marked informal but Democratic functioning with decisions based on consensus.

Role of SHG in poverty alleviation

(1) Pooling of resources like savings - and then extending it as credit to members for personal consumption or other purpose -
- (a) Increase income security.
- (b) Capital for diversification from agriculture.
- (c) long term - sustainable credit
- (d) cheaper credit
- (e) no debt trap - perpetual indebtedness.

(2) Collective bargaining - to leverage capital through credit from banks - like MUDRA,

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NABARD etc. to start an enterprise like matchstick making, bindi making in Telangana, extend credit to sum shops & boutiques in Gujarat, – Lizzat papad is an example of such SHG-Credit linkage.

③ Checks Feminization of poverty.

Women based SHGs which form about 80% of all SHGs have shown greater business acumen based on household enterprise. It provides a fall back mechanism by ensuring income security to women – which leads to financial independence – leading to reduction poverty of households.

④ SHG help in reducing urban poverty –

SHGs have characteristic presence in slums or chawls of Mumbai – who undertake various productive activities like home based enterprises.

SHG-Bank Linkage Programme

- collateral free loans.
- long term + cheap credit
- joint account in name of all members
- sustainable resources for productive activities.

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Shortcomings

- SHG credit turning into NPAs due to lack of entrepreneurial skills
- low credit transmission due to lack of identification issue.
- low pay back capacity of SHGs
- credit used for consumption purpose.
- Cases of fraude and siphoning of funds

Solutions

- Skilling SHGs before credit
- check influence of Politicization of SHGs
- follow up on usage of money
- social & financial audit of funds
- Human resource development & capacity building
- ensure transparency through proper records

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17. Despite initiatives taken by the government in recent years to address the challenges of the Indian higher education system, many reforms are still required to improve its quality and enhance its relevance. Analyse.

(250 words) 15

भारतीय उच्च शिक्षा प्रणाली की चुनौतियों का समाधान करने के लिए विगत वर्षों में सरकार द्वारा की गई पहलों के बावजूद, इसकी गुणवत्ता में सुधार लाने और इसकी प्रासंगिकता बढ़ाने हेतु अभी भी कई सुधारों की आवश्यकता है। विश्लेषण कीजिए।

The Gross enrollment ratio in higher education stands at 25% - which is targetted at 35% by 2025. Various efforts taken in recent times-

(1) Higher Education Financing Agency. - market linked assistance to improve infrastructure.

(2) National Accreditation Concil (NAAC) to rank according to faculties, infra, results, perception etc. criteria.

(3) Rashtriya Uchchtar Siksha Abhiyan including Teachers Training.

(4)

However challenges still remain:

(1) Only 65% of graduates are employable whereas only 45% of engineers find jobs - this reflects lack of industry relevant skills.

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(2) Lack of research and funding in research - only 0.6% of total GDP in research field compared to 3% in China.

(3) Teachers quality and issue of adhocism is prevalent in universities.

(4)

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18. Giving an account of the progress made under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, mention the challenges that it faces in achieving its target. How can the implementation of the programme be fast-tracked? **(250 words) 15**

प्रधानमंत्री आवास योजना के अंतर्गत हुई प्रगति का विवरण प्रस्तुत करते हुए, अपने लक्ष्य को प्राप्त करने में इस योजना के समक्ष आने वाली चुनौतियों का उल्लेख कीजिए। इस कार्यक्रम के कार्यान्वयन को किस प्रकार त्वरित किया जा सकता है?

Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana aims to build 2.5 crores affordable house in urban & 1.5 crors in rural areas - divided in verticals -

1) Slum rehabilitation
2) Credit linked Subsidy Scheme
3) Scheme for expansion & retrofitting of existing house.
4) ~~Vertical expansion of housing space~~ - in-situ expansion
5) Private participation in affordable hous

Challenges faced

- issues of land acquisition
- Resistance from Slum dwellers.
- cost overruns due to inflation, delay in projects - credit crus
- clearances issues → environmental, fire
- lack of enthusiasm in Private participation

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How can implementation be fast tracked?

- greater access to affordable credit
- vertical expansion of construction spaces
- encourage private participation through incentives
- Single window clearances through ~~e-tourn~~ e-gov.
- rehabilitation before demolition of slums - in-situ rehabilitation
- trust-building among slum dwellers.
- follow up on credit linked subsidy.
- 75000 per house not enough for expansion
- cover toilets construction under SBA.

Improvements.

- more resilient housing - to disasters - earthquakes.
- locally procured material for construction
- skilling of manpower not leveraged.

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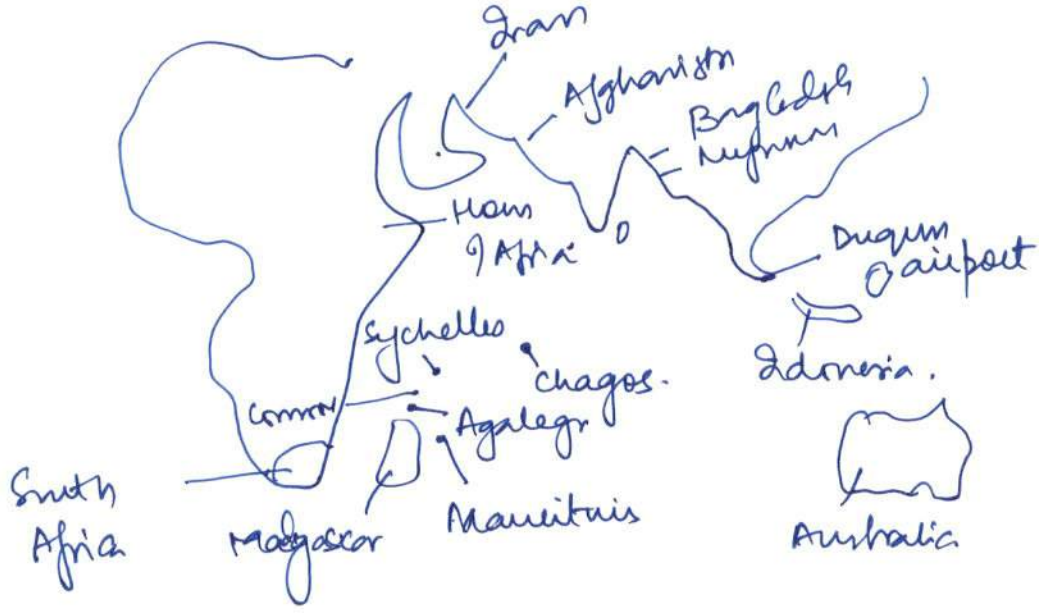
Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

19. Island nations of the Indian Ocean hold immense strategic value in shaping the geopolitical contours of the region and ensuring maritime security of India. Discuss. **(250 words) 15**

हिंद महासागर के द्वीपीय राष्ट्र इस क्षेत्र की भू-राजनीतिक रूप-रेखा को आकार देने और भारत की समुद्री सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित करने में अत्यधिक रणनीतिक महत्व रखते हैं। चर्चा कीजिए।



Indian Ocean is a site for geopolitical contestations and maritime security in wake of Chinese dominance & USA. - ARIA

India Ocean Island nations like:

- ↳ Seychelles
- ↳ Mauritius
- ↳ Madagascar
- ↳ Australia.
- ↳ Indonesia.
- ↳ Maldives
- ↳ Srilanka.

will play an important role in

- ↳ ensuring secured lanes of communication
- ↳ securing trade routes.
- ↳ sustainable exploration of resources.

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↳ countering China Maritime Silk road and string of pearls
↳ emergence of India as net security provider
↳ surveillance over Indian ocean over militarisation.
↳ provide safety from safety concerns like piracy and

Shaping Geopolitical Contours

↳ Issues of Chagos Island
↳ check excessive intervention of USA in Indo pacific region
↳ checking conversion of Indian Ocean into site for. marine conflict & trade war
↳ ensure safe, easy & quicker movement of ships.
↳ greater bargaining power in geopolitical negotiations
↳ ~~check~~ ensure sustainable Blue economy
↳ avoid & prevent debt trap laid by China for eg in Maldives & Srilanka.
↳ South block in ~~cat~~ climate negotiation

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ensuring Maritime security

- check colonization of Islands by USA or China
- ensuring freedom of movement in high seas.
- avoid militarization of Indian Ocean
- greater surveillance, coordination & exchange of information
- respond to disaster management relief & rehabilitate.
- ensure equal space to all countries in negotiations.

Various initiatives like ~~IOAR~~ IORA, IndARC, SAGAR and BIMSTEC are step in this direction

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20. Development assistance, a key instrument in India's foreign policy, has seen a considerable expansion in the past few years both in its scope and reach. Elucidate. **(250 words) 15**

भारतीय विदेश नीति के एक प्रमुख साधन के रूप में 'विकास सहायता' के दायरे और पहुँच दोनों में विगत कुछ वर्षों में काफ़ी विस्तार देखा गया है। सविस्तार स्पष्ट कीजिए।

Development Assistance is a fountainhead of India's regional and neighourhood foreign policy which is based on -

(a) unilateral principles of assistance
(b) no expectations of reciprocal action.
(c) Enhance democracy & strengthen democratic institutions
(d) People to people for better confidence building & capacity augmentation.

Why important?

- Unilateral character without expectation of return enhances the image as regional power
- It is instrumental in building soft power.
- greater cooperation through regional stability & pro India government
- trust building is an important feature
- engagement of all stakeholders

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Recently Development Assistance is evident in

1. Salma-Dam-friendship Dam in Afghanistan
2. Afghanistan parliament
3. Chabahar port in Iran.
4. Renovation of Angkor Vat Temple in Cambodia.
5. Building of refugee camps in Bangladesh & reconstructing new city.
6. Assistance to Myanmar for rehabilitation of Rohingyas.
7. India's assistance to Vietnam for space technology & Defence Technology R&D.
8. Assistance to Central Asian Republics.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)